

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 20-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-5 and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,039,599 to Merriman, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Merriman”)

Applicants submit 1-19 are canceled herein.

New claims 20-22 are submitted herein.

Applicants respectfully submit that Merriman does not teach or suggest the features of claims 20-22 and, therefore, claims 20-22 are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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